

Vol. III, No. X

January, 1910

The Playground

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

Published by

The Executive Committee of the
PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SETH THAYER STEWART
EDITOR

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PLAYGROUNDS OF EAST ORANGE, <i>Louis H. Stilmar</i>	2
PUBLIC ATHLETIC LEAGUE OF BALTIMORE, <i>W. E. Meanwell, M.D.</i>	6
PLAYGROUND APPROPRIATION FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.	10
PLAYGROUND STATISTICS.....	11
NORMAL COURSE IN PLAY.....	12
CHURCH PLAYGROUND IN NEW YORK CITY.....	13
THE CHILD GARDEN, <i>Richard Watson Gilder</i>	15
PLAYGROUND IN LYNN, MASS., <i>H. H. Buxton</i>	16
A REMARKABLE BOY.....	18
OPEN SPACES IN LONDON, <i>Gwendolyn Stewart</i>	18
PLAYGROUNDS IN MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., <i>Rev. Robert P. Kreitler</i>	19

1 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

TEN CENTS A COPY

\$1 PER CALENDAR YEAR

It is decreed that man should work for his daily bread. It is further decreed that for the salvation of his body and soul he should play. The repression of play, especially in childhood, is a dangerous thing. The misdirection of play is a dangerous thing. The suppression of play means disease. The misdirection of play, especially in our great crowded cities, means crime.

—Richard Watson Gilder.





The Playground

OFFICERS OF THE PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

LUTHER HALSEY GULICK,
President.

JOSEPH LEE,
First Vice-President.

HENRY S. CURTIS,
Second Vice-President.

MRS. SAMUEL AMMON,
Third Vice-President.

JACOB A. RIIS,
Honorary Vice-President.

SETH T. STEWART,
Chairman Executive Committee.

S. R. GUGGENHEIM,
Chairman Finance Committee.

GUSTAVUS T. KIRBY,
Treasurer.

H. S. BRAUCHER,
Secretary.

GRACE E. J. PARKER,
Financial Secretary.

Honorary Members.

BARON E. VON SCHENKENDORFF,
President and Founder of the Playground Association of Germany.

Mrs. HUMPHRY WARD,
Founder of Vacation Schools, and Organizer and Chairman of Evening Play Centers' Committee, London, England.

MRS. RUSSELL SAGE.

THE close of the year 1909 marked a decided advance in the interests of playgrounds for children throughout the United States. In intensive work this is especially evidenced by the publication of the tentative Course of Study prepared by this Association, for the use of institutes and normal schools. The extension side of the work is obvious from the statistical report on page II.

There has been a decided awakening of the public as to all forms of amusements—athletics, playgrounds, kindergartens, dance-halls, moving pictures, dramatic presentations, etc.

The motives which make for better or worse citizenship in youth and adult life and especially the motives dominant in street life of children, have been receiving more attention from social workers, and will, no doubt, soon receive the scientific attention they deserve from the educational authorities.

The close of the year has been marked, however, by much sadness in the loss

of large hearted and efficient promoters of playground plans. The editor is not provided with the list, but in New York City alone the loss includes Richard Watson Gilder, President (See p. 15), and Mr. J. S. Kennedy, member of the Council of One Hundred of the Parks and Playgrounds Association.

The editor announces with sincere regret also the death of Miss Maud Summers, Chairman of the Committee on Story-Telling, and an enthusiast for playgrounds.

The new year opens we are sure, with great possibilities for good in the playground movement in the immediate future.

PLAYGROUND CONGRESS.

THE Fourth Annual Congress of the Playground Associations of America will be held in Rochester, N. Y., June 7-11, 1910. The Rochester local committee has already held several meetings and are planning to have every detail of the local entertainment as perfect as possible.

PLAYGROUNDS AT EAST ORANGE—

THE PLAYGROUNDS OF EAST ORANGE, N. J.

By LOUIS H. STILMAR.

Playground Extension Committee.

JT was along back in the spring of 1907 that the Mayor and some of the people of East Orange, N. J., received an inspiration. They thought that the children of their city ought to have a place to play—a *real* place—properly located, equipped and supervised. Expression of the idea was publicly given.

In June the Mayor sent a special communication to the City Council recommending and urging that provision be made immediately for suitable playgrounds for the children of the city. At the next Council meeting a resolution was passed recommending that the Mayor appoint three Playground Commissioners and that the purchase of suitable property be referred to said Commissioners. The Commissioners were appointed the same day, the following men being named: Thomas R. Creede, H. A. Bonnell, P. R. Bomeisler. Mr. Creede was elected Chairman and Lincoln E. Rowley, City Clerk, was made Secretary of the Commission.

On July 1st the Commissioners recommended the purchase of a tract of land known as the Orange Oval, which had formerly been used as an athletic field. The City Council promptly appropriated \$45,000 for the purchase of this property and in October of the same year an additional strip of land adjoining the Oval was also purchased at a cost of \$7,000. This gave a total space of about three acres.

During the fall and the following spring the field was graded and enclosed by a substantial but artistic iron fence. Walks were laid out; six tennis courts, one basketball court and one volley ball court were constructed; a grandstand was erected, properly equipped with dressing rooms, shower baths and

toilet accommodations. A new baseball diamond was laid out and a shelter house provided which contains a retiring room for women, separate toilets for boys and girls, and a room for the caretaker of the property.

In addition to what has been mentioned the field was equipped with baby hammock-swings, children's swings, slides, teeter boards, one giant stride, a sand-box, and separate out-door gymnasium frames for both boys and girls. During the spring of the present year the grounds have been beautified by the planting of nearly 100 trees, and a hedge of fine shrubs. Another tennis court and basketball court have also been added.

The plan of supervision adopted includes a General Custodian, who has general supervision over all the property of which the Commission has custody. He issues permits for use of the ball field and has general direction of the instructors, caretakers, and other assistants. The Secretary has performed the duties of this office up to the present time. Both men and women instructors are employed during the vacation season when regular organized play is instituted and light, simple recreation work for the children is directed.

A branch of the City Free Public Library was established and administered by the City Library officials. The books were selected to interest children visiting playgrounds and could be drawn two afternoons a week.

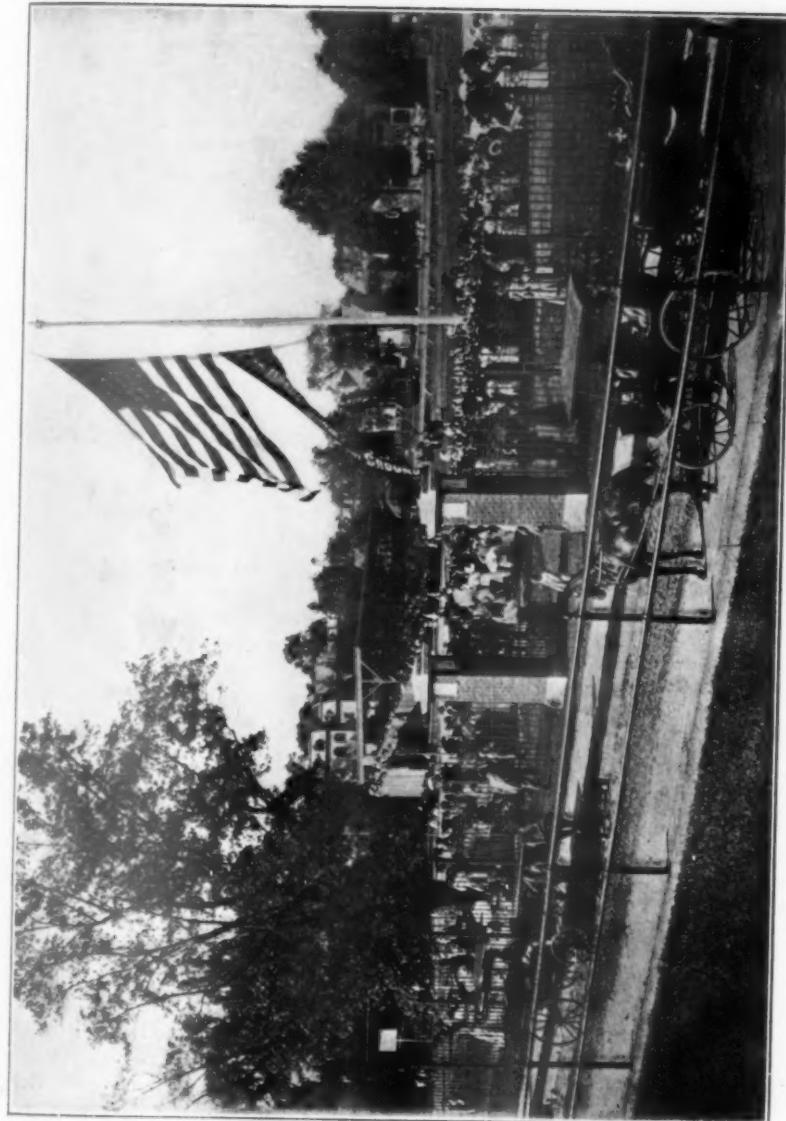
The attendance at the grounds during the vacation season was conservatively estimated at 900 daily, which does not include a daily attendance of fully 200 adults and about 1,500 adults every Saturday afternoon.

The hours for opening and closing during the summer are from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M., and in winter from 8 A. M. to 5 P. M.

While the field was used during the

all
er
ng
or
re
n
by
gs,
a
m
ls.
ar
he
ge
art
en
in
as
op
as
he
of
her
ed
ent
ors
on
ati
ork
lic
is-
he
ren
wn
ng
ely
not
200
ery
ing
to
to
the

ENTRANCE AND GENERAL VIEW OF THE PLAYGROUND AT EAST ORANGE.



PLAYGROUNDS AT EAST ORANGE—

summer of 1908 it was not formally opened and dedicated until September 7, 1908. The program included a band concert; the unfurling of the flag and banner and addresses by the Mayor, the Chairman of the Playground Commission and others. A ball game was also played by teams from the State Senate and the General Assembly. The weather was appropriate and between five and six thousand people were present. The occasion marked a great day in the development of interest and the appreciation of the value of playgrounds in the hearts of the citizens of East Orange.

On January 1, 1909, the Mayor appointed a new Commission composed of Thomas R. Creede, Joseph P. Schiller and Edward E. Reed, and to this new commission more responsibilities were to come. Because of the good judgment and efficiency they had shown, the new commission were asked by the Board of Education to equip and assume supervision of several small playgrounds in various school yards about the city. Ashland Field, which had been maintained by the School Board for athletic and recreational purposes, was also given over to their supervision.

During the winter the Elmwood Skating Pond was turned over to the Playground Commission. They improved the condition of the pond, repaired the shelter house and made it possible for the people of the city to enjoy good skating during the cold weather of the winter.

The Second Annual Playground Festival, held September 6th of this year, was an impressive tribute to the general playground movement. The entire day (Labor Day) was given over to it and fully seven thousand people saw the events. In the morning were exhibitions in athletic prowess by such men as Martin J. Sheridan, All-round Champion of the World, who broke the

world's record throwing the discus. There was a ball game between the Playground Team and the East Orange Field Club, and a tennis tournament, open to both men and women, gold and silver medals being awarded to the winners.

The afternoon was given over to the children and various were the activities and contests into which the thousand or more happy and healthy boys and girls entered.

The climax came late in the afternoon when, under competent direction and the inspiration of a brass band, several hundred little girls with colors and costumes appropriate, executed many picturesque and interesting folk dances and games out on the green sward in front of the grand stand. It was a spectacle that reflected the spirit of the playground in their happy faces and impressed the audience with the value of the playground movement.

The splendid program and the execution of same was due largely to the enthusiasm and ability of the Playground Commission, and its able Secretary, Mr. Lincoln E. Rowley.

The summer just passed marks the second year of the Playground Commission's existence and activities. For them the people of East Orange have only words of praise and gratitude, for with the co-operation of the people they have done a great work.

In his Dedication Day address, Mayor Cardwell said: "The citizens of East Orange appreciate the work and recognize the zeal and ability of the Playground Commission. The purchase of this playground has met with general satisfaction. The grand object to which this field is devoted and to which we to-day dedicate it, are among the richest blessings an enlightened community can confer upon itself.

"The field is a triumph for the principle of a liberal municipal government



BASEBALL FIELD—EAST ORANGE PLAYGROUND.

ATHLETIC LEAGUE OF BALTIMORE—

representing a community intelligent enough to include in public benefits something more than the bare needs of existence. It is a lasting memorial of the care and forethought of the City Council and the people of this city for its future need."

To show the motive and the spirit underlying the zeal of the Playground Commissioners, I quote from their annual report: "It means that play is one of the inalienable rights of childhood. It means that we have learned that the street is an unsatisfactory place for children to play. Play properly directed teaches self-control and upon this rests the foundations of our government. Self government can not be successfully taught as a theory; it must be learned as an experience. A properly conducted playground develops a better physical manhood and a higher moral standard of living."

We congratulate the Mayor, the Playground Commission and the citizens of East Orange that they have seen the vision and we hope their example may serve in showing it to other communities.

TEAM GAME TOURNAMENT BY THE PUBLIC ATHLETIC LEAGUE.

BALTIMORE, MD.

THE Team Game Tournament which the Public Athletic League of Baltimore conducted during the month of August and September, has aroused such intense interest among great numbers of boys attending the athletic fields and out-door gymnasia that it may be of interest to review the methods employed so successfully:

Parks—The League has conducted since May 1st, activities of a physical nature in seven city parks, six of which were open throughout the day from 9 A. M. to 10 P. M., and in each of these

parks two physical directors were employed.

Classes—Contestants were classed as Seniors if they were over sixteen years of age on May 1st, and as Juniors if under that age at that time. Juniors were still further sub-divided according to their weight, into an "80-pound and under," a "95 and under," and an "Unlimited Weight Class." This gave a total of four classes which with their respective events were:

80-lb. Class.

Long Ball, Volley Ball,
Dodge Ball, Relay Races.

95-lb. Class.

Playground Ball, Volley Ball,
Dodge Ball, Relay Races.

Jr. Unlimited.

Playground Ball, Volley Ball,
Dodge Ball, Relay Races.
Seniors.

Playground Ball, Volley Ball,
Dodge Ball, Relay Races.

Eligibility—Membership on the teams was open to all boys who had registered with the League on or before August 6th. This rule was adopted with the view of keeping out "Ringers" as the Tournament progressed.

Trophies—To the winning teams, pennants significant of the championship were awarded. To the members comprising the Long, the Playground and the Volley Ball Teams, P. A. L. die medals were given. Those on the Dodge and the Relay Teams received celluloid buttons. This latter plan was adopted as a matter of economy, these teams being each eligible to play twenty men.

Teams—Twelve men, including substitutes, comprised a team in Long Ball or in Playground Ball. Eight men formed a Volley Ball Team. The Dodge Ball and the Relay Teams of each class were formed by the union of the two major teams, *i. e.*, the combined Long and Volley Ball Teams formed the

—ATHLETIC LEAGUE OF BALTIMORE

Dodge and Relay Teams in the 80-pound class, while in the other classes the Playground Ball and Volley Ball Teams combined. No one could play on both a Playground and Volley or a Long and Volley Ball Team. An entirely new group of boys could be entered in the Dodge and Relays at the discretion of the Director.

Scoring.—Points were awarded to winners in each game as follows: 20 points each for Long Ball, 20 points each for Playground Ball and 20 points for Volley Ball. 10 points each for the Dodge Ball and the Relays.

Conduct.—In addition to those earned in the games, 10 points were added to the total score of a park after each day's play, if the conduct of its representatives had been satisfactory as determined by the supervisor. Home teams were held responsible for the conduct of the spectators.

Forfeits.—Ten (10) points were deducted from its total score for each game a park lost by forfeit. At least 50 per cent. of the players on a team had to be present to play or to claim a forfeit.

Double Scores.—The points for each game and also for conduct were doubled on the final day. These, with the points won during the preliminary games were credited towards the All Round Championship, all the activities promoted during the summer, such as the Badge Test, the Track and Field Meet, etc., being rated proportionately.

New Games.—The games were practically unknown in the athletic fields prior to this season. Dodge and Playground Ball had been played in but two parks, while the Volley Ball game was new. The directors themselves in several instances failed to appreciate the Volley Ball game properly, though it finally won for itself a deserved popularity.

Directors.—The League is fortunate

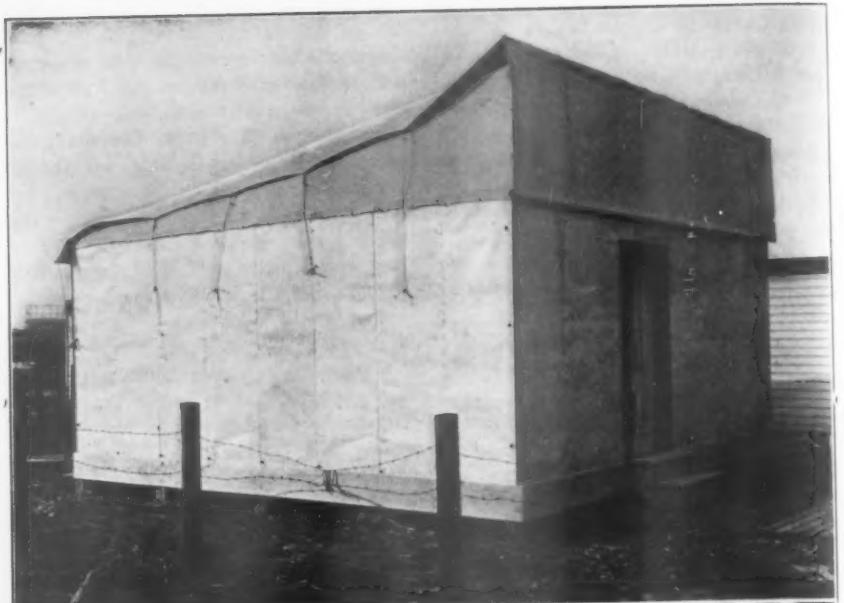
in having in its employ a corps of professional directors of physical training, and to these men much credit is due for the efficient service rendered.

Events and Methods.—Above all, the selection of games, team games full of action and interest, as the events for competition assured the success of the tourney and rendered it an easy matter to secure the enthusiastic participation of 751 different boys in these contests. It has been my privilege to have seen in different years especial emphasis laid in the order given, on gymnastics, athletics and games in the out-door gymnasias and athletic fields of this city, and as a result I hold that while the promotion of all forms of physical training is desirable, yet there can be no question of the superiority over all other forms of Playground activities, of games as factors in the education of the child morally and ethically as well as physically.

W. E. MEANWELL, M.D.
Supervisor, Public Athletic League.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ATHLETIC LEAGUE OF BALTIMORE.

THE report of the Public Athletic League of Baltimore, Md., is an unusually strong one. It shows the intimate relations between the present recreational movement and the social problems which are now attracting such universal attention. The first part of the report, in which the secretary, Mr. George W. Ehler, shows the philosophic basis for the work which the Public Athletic League is doing, cannot fail to convince its readers that the recreational problem is a very fundamental part of modern constructive philanthropy. Attention is called to the emphasis which the play life of the child has been receiving during the last few years. The change from rural to urban conditions and the effects upon the population are pointed out. That we



PORTRABLE BATH-HOUSES USED IN BALTIMORE.
I. THE OUTSIDE. 2. THE INSIDE.

—BALTIMORE, MD.

may not be discouraged by the conditions in many of our larger cities, the words of Dr. Edward D. Hooker at the International Homeopathic Congress are quoted:

"There is good reason to believe that the number of children born healthy and strong is not smaller among the very poor than among the well-to-do or the rich; or, in other words, that nature starts all her children, rich or poor, physically equal and that each generation gets practically a fresh start unhampered by the diseased and degenerate past."

Accordingly there is room for anticipating a rapid amelioration of physique as soon as external conditions are improved. A speech by Dr. Irving Fisher, of Yale, is quoted to show "that human life in America could, by the adoption of hygienic reforms already known and entirely practicable, be lengthened by over one-third, that is, over fifteen years." Attention is called to the fact that charity now is beginning to concern itself with this problem of changing the external conditions of human life, instead of restricting itself merely to the relief of poverty, although this is being done more effectively than ever.

The fundamental relation of recreation to religion and to character is also pointed out:

"The new philanthropy which aims at realizing the vision of St. John here on earth, the new Jerusalem, the city of God, wherein 'there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.'

"The Public Athletic League is one of the natural results of the operation of the causes and conditions here considered, duplicating the work of no other institution, but organizing all the forces * * * of physical training and recreation, to the end that these shall be brought into harmony with the new

spirit of the times * * * until the city of Baltimore * * * shall provide a complete system of public recreation for the whole people, wisely planned, expertly administered."

The Public Athletic League and the Playground Association of Baltimore work in the closest co-operation, Mr. George W. Ehler being secretary of both organizations. The two organizations also have a joint executive committee. Any person interested in the recreational problem of our large cities cannot fail to be stimulated by reading this report.

The Free Public Bath Commission of Baltimore has constructed several portable bath houses that are located, during the summer months, at points in the city where they can be used in connection with the playgrounds. The problem of providing bath facilities in connection with playgrounds on temporary sites is often a difficult one. This scheme seems to be the solution.

The bath house shown in the accompanying picture costs \$725 for construction, and about \$25 per week for maintenance. The sides are galvanized iron, as are also the partitions. The whole thing weighs about two tons, and folds up so as to make just two wagon loads.

The Boston *Transcript* reports that one of the strong features of the Boston playground work has been the development of the younger and more timid boys who under the encouragement of their directors have developed an active interest in sports.

Race feeling has been lessened by the common feeling of loyalty to the neighborhood and a desire to have the playground of the neighborhood "win out."

The free physical examinations have also proved valuable to the boys.

WASHINGTON PLAYGROUND APPROPRIATION—

THE PLAYGROUND APPROPRIATION FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE appropriations for the District of Columbia are usually made in January. This year, on account of the resignation of two district commissioners to take effect January 1st, it was decided to put through the District Appropriation Bill during the month of December. This change made it impossible for the Washington Playground Association to carry out its plans for presenting to the members of the Congress the need of, and justification for supervised playgrounds in Washington.

The District Commissioners recommended an appropriation of \$10,000 for maintenance and \$12,000 for storage and shelter houses, swimming pools, and toilets. This sum was cut down by the Committee on Appropriations to \$3,000 for repairs, equipment and supplies, and \$5,000 for shelter houses and toilet facilities.

During the five days intervening between the public hearing and the presentation of the District Appropriation Bill before the House, a most vigorous campaign was carried on. An attractive pamphlet illustrated with pictures from the Washington playgrounds and presenting a statement of playground activities during the past year, and the needs for the coming year, was prepared and placed in the hands of every member of the House. On the title page of this pamphlet is a picture of President Taft with his authorized endorsement "I am for playgrounds." A letter was sent to all members of the House who voted for a substantial playground appropriation last year, thanking them for their support, and asking for their continued help. Those who voted against the measure, and those who did not vote at all, were called upon personally by the officers of the Playground Association and a committee of Washington

business men. Congressman Foster of Vermont, with the assistance of Congressman Parsons, of New York, championed the playground cause and presented an amendment raising the \$3,000 for repairs, equipment and supplies to \$17,000 for general maintenance. In spite of vigorous opposition this amendment prevailed with the stipulation that the money should come from the revenues of the District of Columbia. This condition was made as a compromise by the opponents of the measure. It is hoped that when the bill goes before the Senate it will be amended to provide for the appropriation in the regular way, that is, one-half being paid by the United States Government and one-half from the revenues of the District of Columbia. This gives Washington \$22,000 for playgrounds next year.

Throughout the campaign the newspapers of Washington gave most loyal support to the playground cause. The work during the past year having met the approval of the entire city.

The opposition on the part of members of the Congress came very largely from lack of information concerning the actual workings of supervised playgrounds, and it was not difficult in most cases to win them to the playground cause when the matter was once placed before them on its merits. Several men who voted against the appropriation last year gave it their hearty support this year because playgrounds had been successfully conducted in their own cities during the past summer.

PLAYGROUND STATISTICS FOR 1909

THE Year Book of the Playground Association of America which is to appear in a few days will show that out of the 914 cities and towns in the United States having a population of five thousand and over, 336 municipi-

—PLAYGROUND STATISTICS FOR 1909

palities are maintaining supervised playgrounds.

The actual number of playgrounds that were being operated in 267 of these cities during 1909 was 1,535. About fifty-six per cent. of these supervised places for the play of children are located in the area of greatest density of population, in the North Atlantic States, where the need for playgrounds has not only emphasized itself strongly upon the social mind, but has been met to a large extent by the actual establishment of playgrounds. The number of cities in the North Atlantic States maintaining playgrounds is 149, and the number of playgrounds established in 123 of these cities is 873. Massachusetts particularly has led in the playground movement, as in so many other movements for progress and social betterment.

In about 49 per cent. of the cities maintaining public playgrounds the managing authority, wholly or in part, is the city itself, which is working through its board of education, its park department, or other municipal bureau—or by combining the activities of two or more departments. In fifteen cities of the United States the mayors have appointed special commissions which are organized as city departments for the administration of playgrounds. Playgrounds are no longer left to the philanthropist: the cities themselves have

awakened to their responsibilities and are including the children in their plans.

In 56 of the larger cities local playground associations have been established, and many of the smaller towns have organized playground committees that will shortly be converted into permanent organizations. Of great assistance have been the churches, women's clubs, Young Men's Christian Associations, Associated Charities, and public-spirited men and women everywhere.

An index of the interest in the movement is afforded by a survey of the figures representing the yearly expenditures for sites, equipment, and the maintenance of playgrounds. In many cases specific information on this point is not available, but 184 cities have sent in reports stating definitely what it costs them to operate their playgrounds. The total amount expended during the year by these 184 cities is \$1,353,114. In 18 per cent. of the cities the amount of money set apart for playgrounds was appropriated entirely by the municipalities, while in 23 per cent. of the cities the municipalities combined with private organizations in the support of the playgrounds.

The table given below shows the amounts of money expended in the twenty largest cities of the United States during 1909 for playground work:

<i>City</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
New York, N. Y.....	3,437,202	\$123,000.00
Chicago, Ill.....	1,698,575	500,000.00
Philadelphia, Pa.....	1,293,697	30,934.00
St. Louis, Mo.....	575,238	6,135.00
Boston, Mass.....	500,892	55,000.00*
Baltimore, Md.....	508,957	45,539.00
Cleveland, O.....	381,768	42,812.00
Buffalo, N. Y.....	352,387	17,420.00
San Francisco, Cal.....	324,782	55,000.00†
Cincinnati, O.....	325,902	12,000.00
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	321,616	22,650.00
New Orleans, La.....	287,104

NORMAL COURSE IN PLAY—

<i>City</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
Detroit, Mich.	285,704	6,510.00
Milwaukee, Wis.	285,315
Washington, D. C.	278,718	15,500.00
Newark, N. J.	246,079	19,000.00
Jersey City, N. J.	206,433	2,500.00
Louisville, Ky.	204,731	2,500.00
Minneapolis, Minn.	202,718	4,875.00 [†]
Providence, R. I.	175,597	6,000.00

* Does not include money spent by private playgrounds.

† Not including \$12,000 for baths.

+ \$20,000 for 1908-09, \$35,000 for 1909-10.

Some of the smaller cities are appropriating generous amounts of money. For instance, St. Paul, Minn., with a population of 163,065 last year spent \$10,000 on her playgrounds; Holyoke, Mass., with a population of 45,712 spent \$25,000; Newton, Mass., with 33,578 inhabitants spent \$9,500; and East Orange, N. J., having a population of 21,506 spent \$7,500 for the children's recreation.

One of the most important results of the study and thought that have been devoted to the recreation problem is the general recognition that the play leader—rather than elaborate equipment—is the essential factor in the playground. Get the right man or woman to lead boys and girls in their play, and all other things will follow. Two hundred and fifty-nine cities in the United States reported that they are employing 3,756 such leaders in their playgrounds.

COMMENTS ON THE NORMAL COURSE IN PLAY.

NORMAL COURSES IN PLAY.

HNE of the notable publications of the year is the report on "Normal Courses in Play," by a committee of twenty-five eminent American educators, Professor Clark W. Hetherington, University of Missouri, chairman. The report was made at the meeting in Pittsburg in May, and is the outgrowth of a suggestion by Dr. Henry S. Curtis at the first annual playground congress, held in Chicago in 1907. His arguments were:

"Playgrounds to be effective must have supervisors, directors, and teachers who have had such training that they understand the child and can direct his activities so as to bring about the best results mentally, morally, physically, and socially. Play, being the chief activity of children during infancy, contains the beginnings of all subsequent development and culture. Its function is educative, and its forms are derived from hereditary adaptations and co-ordinations pleasurable to us from their usefulness in the distant past of the race.

"The chief purposes of the playground are: The promotion of robust health through the encouragement of a free and enjoyable life in the open air. The development of nervous co-ordinations and the normal functions, especially of the vital organs, through the vigorous activities of the playground. The arousing of the deeper interests, emotions, and enthusiasms through those activities by which the central nervous system was developed in the past of the race, and to which alone it responds with full effectiveness; thus determining the energy of nervous discharge and consequent vigor of all after life. The training in courtesy and good fellowship through those social relations of play in which friendships are chiefly formed. The establishment of a moral trend to life through the cultivation of right habits and those loyalties on which social morality and good citizenship chiefly depend. The cultivation of a sense of the joy of life, by which the

—AN INSTITUTE COURSE IN PLAY

soul is harmonized and unified and a play spirit for life's work is acquired."

Here, therefore, after two years of highly skilful endeavor, we have courses of study of inestimable service to the public. It should be in the hands of every teacher, supervisor, and superintendent in the country. There should be neither hesitation nor delay on the part of the boards of education as to supplying it to all their corps of teachers and school officials. Here is a subject upon which there can be no two sides.—*Journal of Education, October 14, 1909.*

THE STUDY OF PLAY.

THE third number of the volume of proceedings of last spring's convention of the Playground Association of America has been issued. Its nearly three hundred pages are devoted to the report of the committee on a normal course in play, and though to the layman this may not sound very interesting, he will soon find that pretty much the whole playground subject is embraced in it; such is the report's extraordinary comprehensiveness and thoroughness. The chairman of the committee is Professor Clark W. Hetherington, of the University of Missouri, and the secretary, Dr. Henry S. Curtis. It is an open secret that much of the report was written by Dr. Curtis, and a really great piece of work it is. No. 4 in the volume has also appeared. This contains Dr. Gulick's address on The Doctrine of "Hands Off" and the committee on folk dancing's report which, though hardly a tenth the length of that of the committee on normal course in play, is a mine of information. The fact is, this volume is an extremely important addition to the literature of play.—*Survey, October 16th.*

AN INSTITUTE COURSE IN PLAY.

UNDoubtedly the most practical of the play courses which have recently been issued by the Playground Association of America is the Institute Course in Play. This is the Normal Course stripped for action. It consists of Syllabus Six of the main course, with suggestions for lectures or reading on the general material of the main course.

It is the most practical form of the course at present because it is the course on "The Practical Conduct of Playgrounds," and all of its material has directly to do with the questions involved. It leaves out of sight all related fields and general training and devotes itself strictly and narrowly to the playground problems themselves. It is a course for the training of temporary employees, and at least nine-tenths of the playground employees at present are temporary employees.

CHURCH PLAYGROUNDS IN NEW YORK CITY.

AT the end of last May, Trinity Parish, of New York City, threw open to the public the grounds of St. Luke's Chapel on Hudson Street, near Christopher Street, and of St.



ORGANIZED PLAY.

(Courtesy Trinity Parish)

CHURCH PLAYGROUNDS—

John's Chapel on Varick Street. Uptown the grounds of the Chapel of the Intercession at 158th Street were also thrown open. The notice which was extended read as follows: "The public is invited freely to use these grounds. The mothers of the neighborhood with



ORGANIZED PLAY FOR STREET CHILDREN
AN OASIS IN THE DESERT.
(Courtesy Trinity Parish)

their children are especially invited to make use of them."

Entire freedom was allowed for the play of children, provided no injury was done to the building or trees. Sand-piles were provided for the little ones.

The grounds have been in constant use. On one of the grounds where there are beds of flowers, not a flower has been plucked or injured by the children, although the supervisor was not at all close.

The grounds at St. Augustine's Chapel on Houston Street near the Bowery are back of the Chapel and can only be reached by passing through the building. Yet these have been used during the summer by the children of the vacation

school which enrolls some 400 children of the neighborhood. About three-fourths of them are Italian children.

The churchyard at St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway and Vesey Street, and at Trinity are not used as actual playgrounds, but they are open to the public

and are very largely used, especially by the young girls from the surrounding office buildings, who eat their lunches daily in the open air under the shade afforded by the buildings and the trees.

The rector of Trinity Parish has suggested that parties of children might well be taken to the old churchyards of Trinity and St. Paul, to visit and study the old tombs which are so closely associated with the history of our city. It is the desire of Dr. Manning that everything connected with Trinity Parish shall be used for the benefit of the people of New York. The extent to which people have responded to Trinity's cordial invitation to use its grounds will doubtless lead other churches to try the same experiment.



HOW TRINITY PARISH USES ITS CHURCH
YARDS IN THE SUMMER.
(Courtesy Trinity Parish)

—RICHARD WATSON GILDER



MR. RICHARD WATSON GILDER.

THE CHILD-GARDEN.

In the child-garden buds and blows
A blossom lovelier than the rose.

If all the flowers of all the earth
In one garden broke to birth,

Not the fairest of the fair
Could with this sweet bloom compare,

Nor would all their shining be
Peer to its lone bravery.

Fairer than the rose, I say?
Fairer than the sun-bright day

In whose rays all glories show,
All beauty is, all blossoms blow.

While beside it deeply shine
Blooms that take its light divine:

The perilous sweet flower of Hope
Here its hiding eyes doth ope,

And Gentleness doth near uphold
Its healing leaves and heart of gold;

Her tender fingers push the seed
Of knowledge; pluck the poisonous
weed;

Here blossoms Joy one singing hour,
And here of Love the immortal flower.

What this blossom, fragrant, tender,
That outbeams the rose's splendor;

Purer is, more tinct with light
Than the lily's flame of white?

Of beauty hath this flower the whole,
And its name—the human Soul!

RICHARD WATSON GILDER.

*From Richard Watson Gilder's Complete Poems.
(Courtesy Houghton, Mifflin Co.)*

None have greater cause to mourn the loss of Richard Watson Gilder than the children for whom he wrought with tongue and pen better than anyone now living can know. Those who worked with him and gladly followed when he led, catching the inspiration of his high enthusiasm, speak for the children in bringing a sorrowful tribute to their champion.

The playground cause, to which he gave his great and loving heart and which, he showed, is the cause of childhood's happiness and manhood's rights and promise, has lost its best and wisest friend. Countless children are happier for his life. The outlook of this land he loved and to which he gave his manhood's devoted years is brighter and better for his far-seeing labors.

JACOB RIIS,
JANE ADDAMS,
JOSEPH LEE,
LUTHER H. GULICK,
WALTER H. PAGE,
OLIVIA SAGE,
SETH T. STEWART.

PLAYGROUNDS IN LYNN, MASS.—

PLAYGROUNDS IN LYNN, MASS.

By H. H. BUXTON.

AT our last city election the city voted by a large majority that we should establish playgrounds. Last April, President of the Common Council, Arthur E. Santry, called on me in regard to the establishment of such resorts. Plans were suggested for the establishment and equipment of four playgrounds, but the Mayor and others could not see their way clear to spend the amount of money that it required, therefore it was suggested that a plan be made to equip a park the city has which contains ten acres, with all the up-to-date apparatus and also to set apart a place on the common which is right in the heart of the city for the children. Two thousand dollars was set aside for the equipment and maintenance of these two playgrounds for the summer. On July 5th a young man was put in charge of the Meadow Park Playground and baseball leagues and athletic games were organized. On July 13th sand bins were placed in the chestnut grove on this park and a lady put in charge. At the same time A. G. Spalding & Bros. started to put in their equipment which consisted of swings, tilts, slides, giant strides, etc., for the children and gymnasium apparatus for the men, consisting of steel framework with ladders, travelling rings, flying rings, horizontal bars, slides, climbing poles, parallel bars and horse. On the Common a lady was put in charge and the grounds were equipped with swings, tilts and sand bins and the fountain was arranged to be utilized for sailing boats and wading.

To these two resorts, the children flock merrily and in the evenings the gymnasium apparatus was used by a large number of men. For the first three weeks on Meadow Park, 1,065 different games were played by the boys and men, with an attendance of 29,245,

and two weeks on the Common there was an attendance of 6,168, making a total for three weeks on Meadow Park and two weeks on the Common, of 35,413. The playground for the children in the Meadow is situated in a fine chestnut grove and here the children and the mothers flock every day for their outing, many mothers bringing their luncheons and make a picnic of the affair.

The gymnasium apparatus for the men is used by the boys during the day and from 7 o'clock to 9 it is enjoyed by the men who work during the day. Quoits is a game which the men enjoy at night and large numbers keep the quoits in continuous motion. The different games that we use are baseball, basketball, quoits and atheletie events.

Outings to nearby ponds for swimming and bicycle runs are held weekly and Saturday afternoon is a great day for baseball and athletic games.

The expression which every one seems to be using now to express themselves in regard to the playgrounds is, "the best thing Lynn ever did."

Judging from the success of these playgrounds this season the city will probably appropriate more money and open up the required number of playgrounds, which is four, next season.

Through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Goethe, Miss Johanna Johnson has been engaged as playground director for the Sacramento Orphanage. The expense of the experiment is being met by Mr. and Mrs. Goethe.

That quite a number of children's institutions are becoming interested in securing play directors was indicated by the report of the Committee on Play in Institutions submitted at the Pittsburgh Play Congress.—Sacramento, Cal., *Bee*, September 1, 1909.



PLAYGROUNDS IN LYNN, MASS.



RAYMOND CAMPBELL of New Orleans, the one-legged boy who has a record of 4'-1½" in high jump, and 7'-2" in the standing broad jump.

A FEW years ago a Public Schools Athletic League was organized in New Orleans through the efforts of a few public spirited citizens. This organization has been so successful that the Board of Education has gradually assumed responsibility for, and expense of its operation. This picture shows how one boy, who on account of his serious handicap, might have had little opportunity for leadership among his fellows has become a hero of them all.

Mr. Lombard, the director in charge of athletics reports that Master Campbell, has become a leader among the boys, and exerts a splendid influence over them for fair play and gentlemanly conduct in the games.

Besides the activity in track and field games great interest has been developed in indoor baseball. On a recent occasion something like eighty teams were playing this game at the same time on one of the play fields set aside for the use of school boys. This game is also played by the girls, and increased attention is being given to folk dancing.

OPEN SPACES.

THE most magnificent modern feature of the Lord Mayor's Show in London on November 9th was the display of "Banners of Open Spaces Preserved by the Corporation of London."

Five large, handsome, green and gold banners representing respectively the following: West Ham Park, Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches, Couladon and other Surrey Commons, and Highgate Woods. Each banner was followed by the keepers of the Open Spaces. These banners were carried between the Boy Scouts under command of Sir Francis Vane, Commissioner of London, and the Band and Boys of the Marine Training ship "Warspite."

Among all the Royal Troops, Territorials, Boy Scouts, and Worshipful Companies of the Corporation of London, these banners seemed the most suggestive indication of present-day progress.

GWENDOLYN STEWART.
London, November 10, 1909.

—MT. VERNON, N. Y.

TEN REASONS WHY MOUNT VERNON SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN PERMANENT PLAYGROUNDS AND HAVE THEM UNDER A MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.

BY REV. ROBERT P. KREITLER.

THE splendid showing of the practical experiment in playground work carried on at School No. 1 by the Civic Committee of the Westchester Woman's Club as it shown in their article elsewhere; the testimony as to its worth and value offered freely by our fellow citizens; the establishment of another ground on the Hermann property and the steady and increasing response from every quarter of the city to the importance of the movement itself, all bear evidence to this one fact, the playground movement has come to stay in Mount Vernon and that only a few years of education and the spread of intelligent information will make possible some of its most cherished ideals. The friends of playgrounds here are in a very hopeful, optimistic mood.

Now, it has occurred to the writer that there are ten reasons why this work, so efficiently brought before the public by the Woman's Club Committee should become a permanent factor in our city life. And furthermore there is a way by which the many forces interested in the matter may be brought together for the good of the cause.

1. Because one hundred and seventy-seven cities in the United States, of 5,000 and over, have inaugurated the movement for playgrounds and they are spending large sums of money upon their acquisition, supervision and maintenance. One hundred and fifty more have entered upon the work this past summer. What three hundred and twenty-seven cities find worth while, surely must be of some interest to Mt. Vernon!

2. Because there are probably over 6,000 children in our city, of whom there are about 5,000 in our public schools. Besides there are many others, young men and young women, who would enjoy the opportunities of a city playground where there were spaces for all sorts of games.

3. Because play is a concern of life; not a luxury. It is a necessity apart from our surroundings whether in the country or the city, in the rural or suburban community. The street is no place to exercise what is the inalienable right of children.

4. Because we must give the children of our community ideals to follow so that they, learning to play together may know how to work together. We want to teach law and order. We want to weld into one whole the various types and kinds of people that make up our citizenship. This requires supervision, leadership, guidance, tools, etc.

5. Because we want to develop among the youth of our city honor and loyalty, so that the social instincts and social conscience may be strong, giving what ex-President Roosevelt calls, "whole-some citizenship."

6. Playgrounds are a kind of "insurance policy." They lessen juvenile crime; prevent accidents; protect the health of the children.

7. Because the present is the time in which to plan for the future of the city. Soon there will be no more spaces even for private tennis courts. Land will be too valuable and prices prohibitive.

8. It is a matter that concerns the whole city, not any one section. It should appeal to the municipal authorities, it being no little part of their business and duty to provide every facility for the embryonic citizens of Mt. Vernon to develop in health and social responsibilities.

MT. VERNON, N. Y.—

9. A small representative commission should be appointed to so guide and educate public opinion and to bring together the various forces now working for the interests of our youth for example, this general playground movement, inter-school athletics, public lectures for children and the general athletics of the city.

10. Because a city exactly like our own, East Orange, N. J., has found it advisable to have such a Commission. What applies there may well apply here. In a recent report this Commission said: "We have learned that the street is no place for children to congregate and play. Any game worth playing from the standpoint of character development requires more space than the street affords, even if there were no ordinances forbidding play in the streets. Play properly directed teaches self-control and upon this rests the foundations of republican government. Self-government cannot be successfully taught as a theory; it must be learned as an experience. And so it happens that the properly conducted playground develops the child morally as well as physically and does more than keep him from the street, where he is an annoyance to the neighborhood and where he generally learns how to break laws; it helps to train to habits of self-government and self-direction; it develops a better physical manhood and a higher moral standard of living."

There is nothing so interesting in a movement like this as to see how others have worked out the problem. The fact that a city like East Orange, which has so much in common with one like our own, can feel the need of playgrounds and so admirably respond to that need as is shown by the facts, must have great weight with the people of Mt. Vernon, especially our city fathers. The appeal of the Mayor of East Orange for their establishment was this: "Under proper super-

vision character is formed and leadership is developed on the playground more than in the school room. Let us give the children of our city these advantages at as early a date as is possible." And when the large municipal field was first opened he said, "It is a great and wise project, undertaken with bold faith in the approval of the public and already making a return of benefits as this day so plainly shows." If it be treason or heresy or extravagance to invest public money in an object of this character, then I say, give us more of such in this country and let the croakers have a chance to exercise their lungs in their own peculiar way, if they will not patronize this field and work off their spleenly fears by exercise. This is one of the best places in the world to exercise "squeaking Soles" (souls).

If the work of the East Orange Commission seems a little beyond our reach, we need only turn to our neighboring sister city, New Rochelle, and find in the appointment of a Commission there incentive for a very definite program here. That they have the same courageous faith in the future as the New Jersey town had is seen in what they propose to do, viz., to plan for a like field and a like use of public school yards. There is place here for a Commission whose business shall be at first to make use of what facilities we have and then work toward those ideals that are to put Mt. Vernon in its place with other cities of its class.

The writer thinks he voices the sentiment of those who believe in this movement when he says the time has come when the splendid efforts of a few should be turned into such channels as to bring benefits to the whole city. What a long step would be taken if under a representative Commission, Hartley Park might blossom into something worth while!

—MT. VERNON, N. Y.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE, MT. VERNON.

MAJOR HOWE, of Mount Vernon, has appointed the following ladies and gentlemen as a Playground Committee:

Mrs. J. D. McLourin, Mrs. A. W. Reynolds, Mrs. Robert McVickar, Miss Suzanne M. Stone, Mrs. Frank M. Tichenor, Mrs. Chas. L. Bowman, Miss Katherine A. Hickey, Mrs. Harry P. Wilcox, Rev. R. P. Kreitler, Frederick W. Clark, Dr. Jacques Redway, Edwin C. Broome, James A. Blanchard, Morris S. Herrman, Harry J. Douglas, Charles H. Heinsohn, and Frank Nordone.

The Committee met on October 25, 1909, and discussed plans.

To get the whole question before the public, it was decided to hold a playground exhibit at a date to be fixed later. There will be an exhibition of pictures, maps, apparatus, charts and models relating to playground work, as well as the distribution of playground literature. The officers chosen are these: Chairman, Rev. Robert P. Kreitler; vice-president, Mrs. Robert McVickar; recording secretary, Miss Suzanne M. Stone; treasurer, James A. Blanchard.

REPORT OF THE LOCAL PLAY-GROUND THIS YEAR.

JN view of the fact that the closing exercises of the playground conducted during the summer by the civics committee of the Westchester Woman's Club had to be omitted on account of the rain, a brief report is here given for the benefit of the friends who so generously supported the work:

Number of days open, 54; total attendance, 6,765; average daily attendance, 125; total number registered, 337.

Nationalities represented — Hebrew, 89; Irish, 76; Italian, 74; American, 57; German, 41.

Cost for season, \$285; cost per child, .042 cents.

In several instances goods were sold to the committee below cost and some were donated; but if all this were added, the cost per child would not exceed six cents per day. This absurdly small sum secures for a child the delights of a playground, equipped with slide, swings, teeter boards, basketballs, checkers, Indian clubs and sandboxes, for four hours, not to mention the training in citizenship unconsciously absorbed through the medium of the director.

The community, as its share of the benefit, was saved from the depredations of the small boy whose occupation is gone after school closes. Hedges and lawns and fruit trees were spared to a degree unknown before for years. Chief Foley says fewer complaints were received at police headquarters than in many years past. From the police standpoint, the playground has been an unqualified success.

A permanent playground on the Hermann plot is rapidly approaching completion. The ground is being put in shape through the generosity of Mr. Hermann, Mr. Nordone and Coyle Bros.

It is the hope of the committee that its experiment may spur the municipal authorities to action looking toward the establishment of a number of playgrounds owned by the city. The saving in cost of prosecuting juvenile offenders for such heinous crimes as playing ball in the street, and similar offenses, annoying to the public, but natural to the embryo citizen, would go far to offset the small amount necessary to carry on the work.

The committee believes that with the propaganda carried on by the former parks and playgrounds committee, and the practical demonstration just given by the playground itself, that public opinion would favor such a step.

ESTELLE R. MCVICKAR,
Chairman.

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

BOOK REVIEWS.

FOLK-DANCES AND SINGING GAMES.

By ELIZABETH BURCHENAL.

THIS volume of "Folk-Dances and Singing Games" is the natural sequel to Miss Burchenal's first book of "Folk-Dance Music." While the last-mentioned collection, however, takes for granted more or less of an acquaintance with the steps and figures of the numerous dances it contains, this new book explains them, and does it in the clearest and fullest manner, numerous excellent photographic reproductions making any misunderstanding of the simple textual descriptions impossible. In short, while the "Folk-Dance Music" offers the teacher already trained in the movements of these traditional dances from over-seas an extensive and authentic collection of their music, the "Folk-Dances and Singing Games" has a much broader scope of application and addresses itself in a most practical way to all sympathizers with that great and constantly extending aesthetic and educational movement known as folk-dancing.

Price, \$1.50. Publishers, G. Schirmer.

GRADED GAMES AND RHYTHMIC EXERCISES

By MARION BROMLEY NEWTON AND ADA VAN STONE HARRIS.

The Games and Rhythmic Exercises herein outlined are the result of long experience and study. All have been practically demonstrated under varying school conditions.

The book is not intended to outline a course in physical training, but is rather a carefully worked-out sequence of Games and Rhythm for exercise, recreation, amusement and instruction, and may well supplement training in the formal gymnastics.

Published by the A. S. Barnes Co., New York City. Price, \$1.00.

NEWS FROM OTHER CITIES.

SAG HARBOR.

During the summer of 1908 Mrs. Russell Sage purchased a tract of land covering about forty acres within the village of Sag Harbor to be used as an athletic field and playground for the boys and girls. The land is admirably adapted for this purpose, part of it being covered with beautiful woods where the children may romp when the sun makes it too hot for them to play on the regular playground. This wooded grove has been equipped with a beautiful club house and benches and tables for picnic purposes. Landscape architects have been employed on the ground for over a year and during the past summer Mrs. Sage authorized the installment of a splendid playground equipment, including field houses for the boys and girls, tennis courts, croquet ground, basketball courts, one-half mile running track, tether poles, volley ball courts, sand bins for the little tots, etc. The field house is equipped with kitchen and lockers for boys and girls. A large grand stand is also constructed which will furnish a comfortable place for spectators to see the various athletic events during a meet, and as a picket fence has been built in front of this grand stand spectators will be prevented from crowding on the track during games. It is estimated that thus far Mrs. Sage has expended about \$60,000 on this playground and when it is completed it will probably be one of the best equipped recreation centres in the country.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

It is interesting to find a Taxpayer's Protective Association demanding that property lying idle on Siegel Street in Brooklyn shall be equipped as a playground for the neighborhood. This Association is taking a far-sighted view of the protection of taxpayers.

—PLAYGROUND IN KANSAS CITY

DAYTON'S NEW PARK COMMISSION.

AMOST interesting campaign has recently been conducted in Dayton, Ohio, for the purpose of organizing a Park Commission. The campaign was carried on by the members of the Chamber of Commerce aided by committees composed of Dayton's most influential citizens. During the closing days of the campaign many busy men, representing nearly every profession, gave practically all of their time to addressing meetings of factory employees, civic and social organizations.

Many of these organizations arranged special meetings to discuss the issues of the campaign and without a single exception gave their hearty endorsement to the proposed Park Commission.

Much local advertising was done. Large placards were placed in the street cars and on conspicuous bill boards; the theater and moving picture shows kept the issues constantly before their patrons, and the daily newspapers were no small factors in the success of the campaign, generously donating advertising space, writing editorials in favor of the issues and reporting all news and resolutions from the various organizations. On the Saturday night previous to the election pictures were thrown on a large screen on one of the prominent city corners, showing playgrounds, boulevards and parks from a number of large cities, and explaining how Dayton might have similar recreation facilities without increasing the present tax rate. The election was finally carried by a vote of 3 to 1.

Regarding the Dayton campaign from a purely business standpoint it is believed that the taxes from the benefited sections at the present rate will soon wipe out the debt incurred and the improvements become a source of revenue to the city. This was constantly emphasized in the Dayton campaign.

FIRST MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND IN KANSAS CITY.

THE park board of Kansas City, Kansas, has condemned the tract of ground on the north side of Washington Boulevard between Eighth Street and Ninth Street, to be opened as the first municipal playground in the city. Shawnee Park, a tract of ground four square blocks in Armourdale, is also to be made into a large playground for the children of the factory district. Two other smaller playgrounds are being planned. Of this movement the *Kansas City Star* said recently:

"The enterprise of a public playground in Kansas City, Kansas, has reached the point of definite action. Land necessary for the creation of the first park of this kind for the children will be condemned to-day. Kansas City, Kansas, is taking advantage of the opportunity to develop the best civic conditions along with the growth of that municipality. Its comprehensive scheme of beautification insures a perfect park and boulevard system susceptible of the fullest development which future demands may require.

The establishment of a system of public playgrounds is essential to the symmetry of the general park plans for any city, and Kansas City, Kan., is offering a fine example to city builders everywhere in its early preparation to meet the demand for this vital factor in civic life. Now is the time for that city to secure its playgrounds. The land in the more densely populated part of the town, where playgrounds are needed, can still be secured at a reasonable figure, and to provide them when they are certain to bring the most satisfactory results means the success of the plan to extend the system as the city grows, for when the benefits of the public playgrounds for the children are demonstrated other sections of the city will demand them as conditions warrant their establishment.

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

Kansas City, Kan., is moving rapidly forward in civic affairs. It gives excellent promise of becoming a splendid pacemaker for the municipalities of the country.

CARL DEHANEY.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.

A report of the Playground Commission of Los Angeles for the year ending November 30, 1908, shows that there has been a steady growth in the playground work of this progressive western city. Los Angeles has reason to be proud of its municipal recreation center. The city government has allowed \$40,000 for the last fiscal year, and \$40,000 again for the present year, making the steady development of the Los Angeles playgrounds possible. Seven regular playgrounds are open throughout the year, and there are four special vacation playgrounds. A branch of the public library has been maintained on three of the playgrounds. The development of the Los Angeles playground work will be an inspiration to many other western cities.

JERSEY CITY, N. J.

A playground has been established at School No. 9. The ground was bequeathed to Jersey City by the late Cornelius Zabriskie. It was fitted up by his family at a cost of over \$12,000. A bathing pool has been built.—*Hoboken, N. J., Observer*, September 18, 1909.

ALBANY, N. Y.

The permanent educational exhibit at the State Capitol at Albany has been enlarged by the addition of pictures and other material showing the work of the playgrounds of New York State.—*Troy Budget*, September 12, 1909.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The Playground League of Rochester has arranged to have a Float in the Parade arranged by the Chamber of Commerce of that city as a part of their

Industrial Exposition. The inclusion of this exhibit of the Playgrounds is a fitting tribute to the place which the Playground work at Rochester holds in the minds of the citizens.—*Rochester Union Advertiser*, September 23, 1909.

KEARNEY, NEB.

An interesting item of information comes from A. O. Thomas, President, State Normal School, Kearney, Nebraska. The State Normal School of that town reports that the institution is preparing a playground to be used in connection with its system of model schools.

The ground is 112 feet by 144 feet in extent. It has been leveled and sanded, and is encircled by a running track. There will be room on the playground for flower beds, blue grass patches, shrubs, etc., in addition to the usual playground apparatus.

The playground will have every variety of child amusement: teeter board, circular swing, flying Dutchman, an old-fashioned rope swing, hay swing, horizontal bars, sliding bars, shoot the chutes, trapeze, jumping ground, and a sand pile. There will also be a skating pond for winter use.

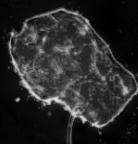
The children of the observation and practice schools maintained in connection with the State Normal School will use this playground twice each day.

CANANDAIGUA, N. Y.

Police Justice Dwyer has offered to the village the use of his vacant lot on Niagara Street for a temporary playground, the village to use the lot free of expense or rent. He is willing to allow the village to equip the ground with apparatus.

CLEVELAND, O.

During the past summer 13,000 bunches of flowers and 1,400 potted plants have been given to children on the Cleveland playgrounds.





Spalding New All Steel Equipments

All Steel Ladders

Perfectly shaped—smoothly finished—proof against weather, time and abuse—*no splinters—no breaks—no accidents.*

Steel Sliding Poles

Patents pending. Infringements will not be tolerated and will be promptly and energetically prosecuted.

Steel Parallels

Catalog now ready

Steel Teeters

WRITE US

Steel Swings

etc.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS. Inc.
NEW YORK CHICAGO LONDON
Gymnasium Contract Dept.,
CHICOPEE, MASS.



Once upon a time the citizens of a certain city in Greece were greatly interested in the nurture and training of children. When the question arose as to whether they should build a great public school or open a playground, it was decided to open a playground. Now, in the course of years, it came to pass that the citizens of that city advanced so far beyond the rest of the human race that in all the centuries since, even to this day, the nations that have gone on building public schools and neglecting to open playgrounds have not been able to catch up with them.

George E. Johnson,
Supt. Pittsburgh Playground Association